

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 NSCE-00 AID-05 IGA-01 TRSE-00 SSO-00

OC-05 CCO-00 /088 W

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P 150435Z MAR 75

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3392

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH PRIORITY

AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 451

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, CH, CB

SUBJECT: JOHN BURNS INTERVIEW WITH SIHANOUK

1. TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL PEKING CORRESPONDENT JOHN BURNS
PROVIDED USLO WITH TAPE OF RECENT INTERVIEW WITH PRINCE
SIHANOUK. HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOW:

2. LENGTH OF WAR: IF THE U.S. CONGRESS ENDS AID TO CAMBODIA, SIHANOUK
SAYS THAT THE WAR CAN BE ENDED IN A FEW DAYS. HE, HOWEVER, THINK
THE CONGRESS MAY NOT LISTEN TO US OPINION AND PROVIDE AID WHICH WILL
PROLONG THE WAR A FEW MORE MONTHS. HE CAUTIONS THAT THE UNITED
STATES HAS THE MEANS TO PROLONG THE WAR AND THEREFORE IT IS
IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO PREDICT FOR CERTAIN THAT WAR WILL BE OVER THIS
YEAR.

3. POSSIBILITY OF BLOODBATH IN PHNOM PENH: SIHANOUK SAYS THERE WILL
BE NO BLOODBATH BECAUSE 1) THE KHMER ROUGE HAVE PROCLAIMED THERE WILL
BENO BLOODBATH IN PHNOM PENH UNLESS THE ANTI-COMMUNISTS RESIST
WITH WEAPONS AND 2) THE PEOPLE OF PHNOM PENH ARE OPPORTUNISTS WHO
WILL FOLLOW KHIEU SAMPHAN IN THE SAME WAY THEY DID HIM AND LON NOL.

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HE SAYS THE KHMER ROUGE WILL PARDON EVERYONE EXCEPT THE USUAL LIST OF

SEVEN LEADERS IF THEY SURRENDER AND DO NOT RESIST. HE WARNS, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WILL BE A BLOODBATH IF PEOPLE IN PHNOM PENH RESIST.

4. CONTACTS WITH THE U.S. IN ANSWER TO BURNS QUESTION ABOUT NEWSWEEK REPORT THAT MR. BUSH HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO APPROACH THE CHINESE ON CAMBODIA, SIHANOUK LABELED THESE STORES "LIES". HE CALLED THE LIST OF CONTACTS PUT OUT BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT ALSO LIES AND SAID HIS PROPOSALS FOR CONTACTS WITH DR. KISSINGER AND PRESIDENT NIXON THROUGH CHOU EN-LAI AND MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT HAD BEEN REFUSED. SIHANOUK THEN SAID HE HAD BEEN TOLD BY THE CHINESE AMBASSADOR THAT WHEN DR. KISSINGER HAD COME TO CHINA IN NOVEMBER THE SECRETARY HAD SAID THAT THE AMERICANS WOULD NOT ALLOW SIHANOUK AND THE KHMER ROUGE TO TAKE POWER IN PHNOM PENH BECAUSE THEY DO NOT REPRESENT THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE AND ARE JUST PUPPETS OF HANOI. THIS PROVES, SAID SIHANOUK, THAT THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY OF A RECONCILIATION WITH THE UNITED STATES.

5. SIHANOUK ON SECRETARY KISSINGER. SIHANOUK FINISHED THE INTERVIEW WITH THE STATEMENT THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER IS CAMBODIA'S "WORST ENEMY" AND REFERRED TO HIM AS A "PARROT". HE CONCLUDED THAT CAMBODIA AND THE UNITED STATES COULD BE FRIENDS ONLY AFTER SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD LEFT OFFICE.

6. TAPES WILL BE SENT EA/LC BY NEXT POUCH.
BUSH

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